

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1 and 13 without disclaimer of the underlying subject matter or prejudice against future prosecution, and amend claims 2, 4-11 and 15. Accordingly, claims 2-12 and 14-19 are pending in the application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the drawings are acceptable.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1 and 13 have been canceled, and claims 4-10 have been amended to depend from claim 2, and so the rejections of these claims in the Office Action dated 1 May 2007 are now deemed moot.

Meanwhile, the Office Action rejects: claims 2-3 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Grouev et al. U.S. Patent 6,333,605 ("Grouev") in view of Morgan et al. U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0171378 ("Morgan"); claims 8-9 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Grouev in view of Morgan and further in view of Ben-Ze'ev U.S. Patent 6,791,467 ("Ben-Ze'ev"); claims 10 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Grouev in view of Morgan and further in view of Hou U.S. Patent Publication 2002/026035 ("Hou"); and claims 11 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Grouev.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims 2-12 and 14-19 are patentable over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 2

At the outset, M.P.E.P. § 2143.03 provides that:

All Claim Limitations Must Be Taught or Suggested. To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." In re Wilson,

424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970). If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Among other things, in the method of claim 2 each lighting unit in the group includes an adaptable device which selectively operates as either a control master device or a slave device.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in Grouev or Morgan or any combination thereof teaches or suggests such a feature.

The Office Action fairly admits that Grouev does not disclose such a feature, but it cites Morgan as disclosing a method “where light sources (via 24A-24D), see fig. 4) can act as a master to control one or more other slave light sources.”

Of course, this is not what is recited in claim 2. Claims 2 recites that each lighting unit in the group includes an adaptable device which selectively operates as either a control master device or a slave device.

Morgan does not disclose or suggest such a feature.

The Office Action further states, without any citation or support from the prior art, that:

“It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the light source (ballast) of Grouev to include the function of a device acting as either a master or slave in order to make it easy for the user to control multiple light units via controlling one light unit only.”

At the outset, Applicants respectfully submit that, at most, this might provide a reason to modify Grouev to include a (preselected) device which “can act as a master to control one or more other slave light sources,” as is disclosed by Morgan. But it

does not and cannot provide any reason to provide an adaptable device which selectively operates as either a control master device or a slave device.

Furthermore, the Office Action does not cite anything in the prior art which suggests the supposed reason for the proposed combination. In this regard, Applicants respectfully note that hindsight reconstruction of Applicants' invention by combining various features of multiple disclosures, when there is no teaching in the prior art for the combination, is impermissible.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claims 3-10

Claims 3-10 depend from claim 2. Neither Ben-Ze'ev nor Hou remedies the shortcomings of Grouev and Morgan with respect to claim 2, and therefore claims 3-10 are deemed patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 2, and for the following additional reasons.

Claim 3

Among other things, in the method of claim 3, the remote control selects one of the adaptable devices to operate as the control master for the group of lighting units.

The Office Action fails to cite anything in the prior art that suggest such a feature. Indeed, the Office Action fails to even mention this feature!

Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art does not disclose or suggest any such feature, and accordingly, for at least this additional reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 3 is patentable over the cited art.

Claim 5

Among other things, in the method of claim 5, the unique identification code is assigned to each lighting unit when the lighting unit is installed in the system.

Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art does not disclose or suggest any such feature. In particular, Grouev does not disclose such a feature at col. 2, lines 24-27. Indeed, in direct contrast, Grouev discloses at col. 2, lines 24-27 that "each ballast is given an ID at the factory" (emphasis added).

Accordingly, for at least this additional reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 5 is patentable over the cited art.

Claim 11

Among other things, the method of claim 11 includes using the remote control to select one of the lighting units to be a control master for the system.

For similar reasons to those set forth above with respect to claims 2-3, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art does not disclose or suggest any such feature.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is patentable over the cited art.

Claims 12 and 14-19

Claims 12 and 14-19 depend from claim 11. Neither Ben-Ze'ev nor Hou remedies the shortcomings of Grouev and Morgan with respect to claim 11, and therefore claims 12 and 14-19 are deemed patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 11, and for the following additional reasons.

Claim 14

Among other things, in the method of claim 14, the unique identification code is assigned to each lighting unit when the lighting unit is installed in the system.

Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art does not disclose or suggest any such feature. In particular, Grouev does not disclose such a feature at col. 2, lines 24-27. Indeed, in direct contrast, Grouev discloses at col. 2, lines 24-27 that "each ballast is given an ID at the factory" (emphasis added).

Accordingly, for at least this additional reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 is patentable over the cited art.

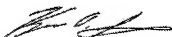
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 2-12 and

14-19 and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (571) 283.0720 to discuss these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE & WHITT



By: _____

Kenneth D. Springer
Registration No. 39,843

VOLENTINE & WHITT
One Freedom Square
11951 Freedom Drive, Suite 1260
Reston, Virginia 20190
Telephone No.: (571) 283.0724
Facsimile No.: (571) 283.0740